

TESTIMONY ON HB 1394
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Kristin Lunneborg, CFO at the North Dakota Veterans Home. I am here to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1394.

The Veterans Home is listed in subdivision 5 of this bill requesting appropriation authority of \$650,000 for additional funds received and/or expected to be received for efforts in combatting COVID-19. The North Dakota Veterans Home's amazing health care workers have gone above and beyond to provide care to our residents during this pandemic. A portion of the funding we are requesting authority for is in the form of quality incentive payments we received for our ability to keep our facility positivity rates lower than the positivity rates of our area.

We were just informed this week that we would be receiving additional federal funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, under Section 517 of Division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This section of Public Law provides for a one-time emergency payment to existing State Extended Care Facilities for Veterans to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID 19. Due to the notification of this payment, we respectfully request subdivision 5 of HB 1394 be amended from \$650,000 to \$975,000. We are still awaiting guidance on allowable uses of this additional funding but anticipate it will be used like our other federal funds for such things as the purchase of PPE supplies, disinfecting chemicals, transitioning to hands free fixtures, medical equipment and COVID related salaries and wages.

Chairman Homberg and committee members, this concludes my testimony. I ask for your support for HB 1394. I will be happy to answer any questions.